(c) to (e) Under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961 and the bilateral "Code of Conduct for Treatment of Diplomatic/ Consular Personnel in India and Pakistan" signed by the two countries in 1992, the responsibility for the safety and security of personnel of High Commission rests with the host Government. Government of India protests strognly to Government of Pakistan against all cases of harassment of officials of Indian High Commission in Islamabad and reminds them of their obligations under the Vienna Convention and bilateral Code of Conduct. Government remains committed to taking all necessary measures for the safety and security of the personnel in Indian Missions abroad.

Haj pilgrims

271. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) the number of Haj pilgrims from India who visited Mecca this year (2003) and the comparative figures for 2002 and 2001; and

(b) the facilities provided by Government for their travel to and fro and the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) The total number of Haj pilgrims who went from India to Mecca through the Haj Committee, Mumbai and Private Tour Operators during the year 2001, 2002 and 2003 are as follows:—

2001 — 118,512

2002 — 118,759

2003 — 116,078

(b) The Ministry of Civil Aviation makes arragements for air-transportation of Haj pilgrims going through the Haj Committee, Mumbai. This year the pilgrims were carried by Air India, Indian Airlines and Saudi Arabian Airlines from 12 embarkation points at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Calicut, Lucknow, Srinagar, Nagpur and Gaya. Two new embarkation points were opened at Nagpur and Gaya. This year 17,000 pilgrims will return to India directly from Medina.

The expenditure incurred by the Ministry of Civil Aviation on air subsidy during 2001 & 2002 is as follows:

2001 — Rs. 148.36 crores (provisional)

2002 — Rs. 168.71 crores (provisional)

As the air operation for Haj 2003 is yet to be completed, the final expenditure is still to be reckoned. However, the Ministry has budgeted an amount of Rs. 200 crore as expected expenditure for this purpose.

Outcome of Pravasi Bharatiya Sammelan

272. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) the outcome of the recent conference organised as part of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas get together held in New Delhi; and

(b) the assurances, if any, received from the Indian Diaspora to help in getting foreign technology in Defence and Internal Security Research and Development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas organised from 9-11 January, 2003 has helped instill a sense of diasporic identity in the overseas Indians and strengthen the collective consciousness of diasporic concerns. It was the largest gathering of NRIs and PIOs from 61 countries. Several important announcements were made in the conference including on dual citizenship, compulsory insurance scheme for overseas Indian workers, reservation of a certain proportion of seats in our academic institutions for the children of workers in the Gulf and creation of Advisory Committee on the Diaspora. Also Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards were conferred on ten NRIs and PIOs selected by the Jury-Cum-Awards Committee. A website was launched on the 10th January, 2003 for the diaspora interested in dealing with India's economic development. Important announcements were also made in the financial sector. The parallel sessions held on Science & Technology, Knowledge-Based Industries, Financial Services, Education, Health, Culture, Tourism, Voluntary Sector, Media and Entertainment and Defence